

Summary of outreach efforts for draft Early Learning Plan

We worked hard to help ensure the draft statewide Early Learning Plan truly reflects the diverse communities in our state and the strengths and needs of our citizenry. The Department of Early Learning (DEL), Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Thrive by Five Washington (Thrive) embarked on extensive public outreach efforts, along with many partner organizations, to gather feedback that would inform the draft plan.

Below is a summary of the outreach efforts that took place in October and November 2009. *Note: We will be gathering input on the draft plan throughout the winter and into March 2010 via surveys and community meetings.*

Key Communicators

- More than 400 “Key Communicators” received regular e-mail updates on the work to create a draft plan, and were invited to take brief surveys to give their input at different stages. This input served as a check to ensure our work was headed in the right direction, and helped us make course corrections as needed.
- We also asked Key Communicators to share the information we sent them back with their communities to cast an even wider net for input.
- Some key communicators were invited to join. We also posted on the DEL Web site home page a link inviting others to become a Key Communicator. Of the more than 400 Key Communicators, 169 were volunteers who contacted DEL to be added to the list.
- Key Communicators included DEL staff, stakeholder and advocacy groups, educational service district leaders, legislators and legislative staff, Tribal Nations chairs and early learning coordinators, state commissions, higher education, public health agencies, representatives of other state agencies, parents and guardians, child care providers, K-12 representatives, representatives of public libraries, and more.

Community meetings

- DEL director meetings with legislators on committees of jurisdiction.
- DEL leaders met with Achievement Gap Work Group members.
- Leaders from DEL, OSPI and Thrive also attended the following meetings to present on the draft plan, and solicit input either verbally or via survey:
 - October 28:** DEL Head Start State Collaboration Office lead Kelli Bohanon presented to Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP, gathered input.
 - October 28:** ELP community meeting, Seattle
Hosted by League of Education Voters, Momsrising.org and Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP
 - October 29:** ELP community meeting, Tacoma
Hosted by League of Education Voters, Momsrising.org and Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

October 29: ELP community meeting, Silverdale

Hosted by Martha & Mary Early Learning Center

November 4: ELP community meeting, Bellingham

Hosted by League of Education Voters, Momsrising.org and Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

November 5: ELP community meeting, Kirkland

Hosted by League of Education Voters, Momsrising.org and Washington State Association of Head Start & ECEAP

November 9: ELP community meeting, Sequim

Hosted by Olympic Kitsap Early Learning Partnership

November 10: ELP community meeting, statewide via the K-20 Network

Hosted by the Educational Service Districts and the Washington State Child Care Resource & Referral Network

November 12: ELP community meeting, Spokane

Hosted by Spokane County United Way, Community-Minded Enterprises and Inland Northwest Alliance for Early Learning

Online and newsletters

- Early Learning Plan Web page created at www.del.wa.gov/partnerships/elac/elp.aspx with latest information and updates on the work to draft an Early Learning Plan
- Regular updates in the DEL and Thrive stakeholder newsletters

Community Engagement Work Group

- Non-policy work group tasked with reaching out to representatives of communities whose voices might not otherwise be heard during outreach effort.
- Designed survey specifically for those representatives.

Media outreach

- November 20: Thrive and DEL leaders conducted live, in-studio interview on KING 5 Morning News about the plan.
- December 1: Webinar for statewide media with leaders of DEL, Thrive and OSPI to talk about the draft plan, opportunities for public input.